



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Robert M. Schumacher et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/773,370  
Filed : February 6, 2004  
For : STRUCTURED DOCUMENT BROWSER  
Group Art Unit : 2179  
Examiner : Heather R. Herndon

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 , 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the Examiner's attention.

Applicants express appreciation for the courtesies extended by Examiner Herndon during an April 20, 2005 telephone conversation. During this telephone conversation, the undersigned indicated that this continuation application claims priority from two patents which are the subject of pending reexamination proceedings (as noted below). The undersigned indicated that the present Information Disclosure Statement makes of record information from parent applications as well as information cited in the reexamination proceedings. Examiner Herndon indicated that additional copies of the documents need not be submitted as they can be obtained from the parent files and the reexamination proceedings which will be reviewed by the examiner. The undersigned therefore indicated that this Information Disclosure Statement would be submitted without resubmitting copies of documents. Moreover, the undersigned indicated that if any

information is needed by the examiner when the application is taken up for action, including any cited documents, the undersigned can be contacted at the below-listed telephone number.

Applicants note that this application is a continuation of Application No. 10/214,442, filed August 7, 2002, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/304,425, filed April 29, 1999, which matured into U.S. Patent No. 6,442,574, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/649,271, filed May 17, 1996, which matured into U.S. Patent No. 5,933,841. U.S. Patent No. 5,933,841 is the subject of a Director-initiated reexamination, i.e., Reexamination Control No. 90/006,633, and U.S. Patent No. 6,442,574 is the subject of a Director-initiated reexamination, i.e., Reexamination Control No. 90/006,634, both of which were ordered on September 24, 2003 and based upon the same document, i.e., Eick, S.C. Steffen, J.L. Sumner, E.E. Jr. *Seesoft-A Tool For Visualizing Line Oriented Software Statistics*, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, v. 18, n. 11, pp. 957-968, ISSN 0098-5589, INSPEC 4333017, November 1992.

The following documents were cited during the prosecution of the parent applications

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,616,336
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 4,752,908
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 4,829,453
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,021,989
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 5,129,082
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,140,521
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 5,142,678
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 5,146,552
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 5,204,947

- (10) U.S. Patent No. 5,278,980
- (11) U.S. Patent No. 5,297,249
- (12) U.S. Patent No. 5,329,111
- (13) U.S. Patent No. 5,331,547
- (14) U.S. Patent No. 5,339,091
- (15) U.S. Patent No. 5,339,433
- (16) U.S. Patent No. 5,392,387
- (17) U.S. Patent No. 5,404,506
- (18) U.S. Patent No. 5,428,776
- (19) U.S. Patent No. 5,432,903
- (20) U.S. Patent No. 5,530,852
- (21) U.S. Patent No. 5,557,722
- (22) U.S. Patent No. 5,572,643
- (23) U.S. Patent No. 5,623,679
- (24) U.S. Patent No. 5,625,781
- (25) U.S. Patent No. 5,634,064
- (26) U.S. Patent No. 5,708,826
- (27) U.S. Patent No. 5,774,109
- (28) "Frames", <http://home.netscape.com/comprod>, downloaded May 9, 1998.
- (29) "BrowserWatch", <http://browserwatch.internet.com/news/story/netscape29.htm>,  
downloaded May 9, 1998.
- (30) Classified Search and Image Retrieval Student Manual for the Automated Patent System (APS), sections 1-4, 6-7, 9; May 1991.

(31) Classified Search and Image Retrieval Student Manual for the Automated Patent System (APS), sections 1-10, appendix, and course overview; May 1991 (which is a copy of the APS including the above-noted sections)

(32) Fowler et al., "Visualizing and Browsing WWW Semantic Content", Emerging Technologies and App'ns in Communication, 1996 Conference, pp. 110-113; 1996.

(33) Harger, "Introducing DSP with an Electronic Book in a Computer Classroom", IEEE Transactions on Education, v39 n2, pp. 173-179, May 1996.

(34) Gerson, "Moving Happily Through the World Wide Web", IEEE Computer Graphics and App'ns Magazine, v16 n2, pp. 72-75; March 1996.

(35) Simpson, "Mastering WordPerfect 5.1 & 5.2 for Windows", pp. 510-535; 1993.

(36) Netscape Navigator 2.0a2 for Windows,  
<http://home.netscape.com/eng.mozilla/2.0/relnotes/windows-2.0a2.html>, 5 pages, 1999.  
(37) U.S. Patent No. 5,781,785  
(38) Adobe Acrobat Reader 2.0, printout of application help file, 1994 Adobe Systems, Inc., pages 1-18.

U.S. Patent No. 5,933,841, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,574, the Reexamination Orders in Reexamination Control Nos. 90/006,633 and 90/006,634, and the Eick article cited in the Reexamination Orders are also listed herein, as follows:

(39) U.S. Patent No. 5,933,841

(40) U.S. Patent No. 6,442,574

(41) Order in Reexamination Control No. 90/006,633.

(42) Order in Reexamination Control No. 90/006,634.

(43) Eick, S.C. Steffen, J.L. Sumner, E.E. Jr. *Seesoft-A Tool For Visualizing Line Oriented Software Statistics*, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, v. 18, n. 11, pp. 957-968, ISSN 0098-5589, INSPEC 4333017, November 1992.

Applicants also bring to the attention of the Examiner Citations of Prior Art Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.501 which were filed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,933,841 and 6,442,574, and are listed as follows:

(44) Citation of Prior Art Under 37 CFR Sect. 1.501 filed in U.S. Patent No. 5,933,841, 3 pages and 3 exhibits, February 21, 2003.

(45) Citation of Prior Art Under 37 CFR Sect. 1.501 filed in U.S. Patent No. 6,442,574, 3 pages and 3 exhibits, February 21, 2003.

Further, Applicants submit the following additional documents for consideration by the Examiner, which have been cited by Applicants in the above-noted Reexaminations.

(46) U.S. Patent No. 5,546,528

(47) "PATNEWS: SBC asserts hyperlink patent? DMCA; Microsoft/W3C patents," email from Greg Aharonian, Internet Patent News Service, 6 pages, January 20, 2003.

(48) "The next EPO president; India; Mattel; Apple; Cisco," email from Greg Aharonian, Internet Patent News Service, 4 pages, January 27, 2003.

(49) Microsoft Excel Version 5.0 User's Guide, Microsoft Corporation, 786 pages, 1994.

(50) Microsoft Excel Version 5.0 User's Guide, Microsoft Corporation, pages 14, 80, 82, and 454, 1994.

(51) "Can You Patent Common Features of the Internet?," Brendan I. Koerner, <http://slate.msn.com/id/2077925/>, 3 pages, January 30, 2003.

(52) "SBC's patent claim on Web navigation is way off course," Dan Gillmor,  
<http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/5056769.htm>, 3 pages, January 29, 2003.

(53) "SBC Patents Basic Web Technology?," Dan Gillmor,  
<http://weblog.siliconvalley.com/column/dangillmor/archives/000762.shtml#000762>,  
4 pages, January 29, 2003.

(54) "Frames & WWW," Mikhail Popov, <http://www.webhistory.org/www.lists/www-talk.1994q4/0658.html>, 1 page, November 10, 1994.

(55) "SBC royalty request startles site owners," Chicago Tribune,  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/printedition/chi-0302080249feb08,1,3794204.story>, 2  
pages, February 8, 2003.

(56) "Users Uneasy On SBC Claim To Patent On Web Tool," New York Times, 2 pages,  
January 28, 2003.

(57) Excite Prospectus, Registration Statement No. 333-2328-LA, 78 pages, April 3,  
1996.

(58) Filevision User Manual, Telos Software Products, 154 pages, 1984.

(59) "HyperCard User's Guide," Apple Computer, Inc., 220 pages, 1988.

(60) "HyperCard User's Guide," Apple Computer, Inc., pages 14, 15, and 46, 1988.

(61) "HyperCard Version 1.2 Update," Apple Computer, Inc., 9 pages, 1988.

(62) "Getting Started with HyperCard 2.3," Apple Computer, Inc., 163 pages, 1995.

(63) "IBM BookManager Library Reader for Windows User's Guide," Version 2,  
Release 0, Document Number SC34-3065-00, Program Number 5799-PXY, 428 pages, 1994.

(64) "9.5 The Book Window," from "IBM BookManager Library Reader for Windows  
User's Guide," 5 pages, 1994.

(65) "Official Guide to Using OS/2 Warp," First Edition, Stagray et al., 507 pages, 1995.

(66) "Official Guide to Using OS/2 Warp," First Edition, Stagray et al., pages 54, 367, and 368, 1995.

(67) WebMaker User Guide, Version 2.1, The Harlequin Group Limited, <http://vieta.math.tu-cottbus.de/programme/webmaker/wmug-2.html>, December 1995.

(68) "The Macintosh in 1984," <http://toastytech.com/guis/macos1.html>, 6 pages, printed March 5, 2003.

(69) "System 1.0/Finder 1.0 (Macintosh System Software)," <http://www.mac512.com/system10.htm>, 4 pages, printed March 5, 2003.

(70) "The Macintosh Finder," <http://uracil.cmc.uab.edu/MolModLab/tutor/mac/finder.shtml>, 4 pages, printed March 5, 2003.

(71) "Windows 95: Setting up the Network Control Panel," <http://www.easy.com.au/help/dun/win95network.htm>, 5 pages, printed March 5, 2003.

(72) "The ENQUIRE SYSTEM Short Description," T.J. Berners-Lee, European Organisation for Nuclear Research, 10 pages, October 1980.

(73) 1990 Screenshot of Tim Bernier-Lee's First Browser, [www.w3.org/History/1994/WWW/Journals/CACM/screensnap2\\_24c.gif](http://www.w3.org/History/1994/WWW/Journals/CACM/screensnap2_24c.gif), 1 page, printed March 5, 2003.

(74) "Eolas releases WebRouser via the Internet," <http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/www-talk/1995SepOct/0035.html>, 3 pages, September 18, 1995.

(75) "Framemaker/HTML Conversions," <http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/www-html/1994Dec/0119.html>, 2 pages, December 15, 1994.

(76) "SoftQuad HoTMetaL First Edition," SoftQuad, Inc., <http://www.w3.org/Tools/hotmetal.txt>, 50 pages, June, 1994.

(77) "SoftQuad HoTMetaL v1.0b is now available for pickup using anonymous ftp," <http://www.w3.org/Tools/HoTMetal.html>, 3 pages, June 23, 1994.

(78) "The Fishwrap Personalized News System," Chesnais et al., Proc. of the Second IEEE International Workshop on Community Networking, pp. 275-282, May 1995.

(79) "Dial-a-catalog," David C. Churbuck, Forbes, 3 pages, October 1994.

(80) "Documentation on tap," IEEE Spectrum, pages 52-56, September 1994.

(81) "DynaText System Tutorial," Release 2.1 for Microsoft Windows, Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., 39 pages, July 1, 1993.

(82) "DynaText Electronic Book Publishing and Delivery System," Electronic Book Technologies Product Description, 6 pages, 1993.

(83) "DynaText System InStEd User Guide," Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., sections 1-8, 1994.

(84) "DynaText System Installation and System Administration Guide," Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., sections 1-3, 1994.

(85) "DynaText System Publisher Guide Volume 2," Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., sections 1-4, 1994.

(86) "DynaText 2.2 Prototype Workshop," Book 1, Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., sections 1-14, 1993.

(87) "DynaText 2.2 Prototype Workshop," Book 2, Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., sections 1-14, 1993.

(88) "DynaText User Guide – Release 2.0," Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., sections 1-10, undated.

(89) "EBT Workshop Description: Introduction to Electronic Publishing with DynaTag and DynaText," Electronic Book Technologies, Inc., sections 1-14, October 20, 1995.

(90) Arbortext, Applying Industrial Strength SGML, 16 pages, 1995

(91) Arbortext, Adept 8.0 FOSI Conversion Planning Guide, 7 pages, November 4, 1998

(92) Arbortext, Getting Started with SGML, 23 pages, 1995.

(93) Vizard, Reprint from PCWEEK, Mobil refines on-line specs for oil facilities, 2 pages, July 4, 1994

(94) Reprint of Industrial Engineering Solutions, applications, Workflow tool improves productivity at Caterpillar, 1 page, 1996.

(95) Reprint from Imaging World, Vol. 5, Issue 9, September 1, 1996, Managing Information in Today's Document & Workflow-Intensive Enterprise – Managing a world of owner's manuals, 1 page.

(96) Arbortext, Adept.Editor<sup>TM</sup> Industrial strength SGML-base editor, 8 pages, 1996.

(97) ArborText Services – Expert Assistance Beyond Software, 8 pages, 1997.

(98) ADEPT Editor Unformatted Print: Adept Editor Help, Printed September 3, 1997, 13 pages.

(99) Arbortext, Welcome to ArborText Industrial Strength SGML, 35 pages, printed April 3, 1997 from various sites at [http://www.arbortext.com/...](http://www.arbortext.com/)

(100) ArborText, Native vs. Filtered SGML, 15 pages, 1995.

(101) ArborText, ADEPT-PUBLISHER™ Industrial Strength SGML Composition and Printing, 8 pages, 1996.

(102) ArborText, ADEPT Command Language Industrial strength SGML programming language, 8 pages, 1996.

(103) ArborText, Preliminary Willow Technology™ Unleashing the power of databased compound documents, 8 pages, 1996.

(104) The ArborText Adept Series: ADEPT-EDITOR™ User Guide, 1995, 327 pages.

(105) XYVISION, Parlance Document Manager, 6 pages, 1995.

(106) PDM Windows Client Coursebook, June 1996.

(107) XYVISION, Parlance Document Manager Workbook, Revision B, May 1995.

(108) Computer Search, 6 pages, dated June 21, 1994.

(109) Macro Basics, Tracking down the cause of macro errors, Inside Microsoft Word 6, 2 pages, date not appearing on document.

(110) Lotus Notes – The fastest way to a responsive organization™ –Release 3, 1993, 6 pages.

(111) 9.6 SuperBook - Automatically Structured Documents, downloaded from <http://www.ickn.org/elements/hyper/cyb49.htm> on August 12, 2004.

(112) First Freeware SGML Viewer for the World Wide Web dated May 17, 1995, downloaded from <http://www.users.cloud9.net/~bradmcc/panorama-1.html> on August 12, 2004.

(113) Schumacher, The Human Factors Involved In Designing An On-Line Reference System”, Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 1995, pages 218-222, October, 1995

Applicants note that the additional documents listed above include some complete documents and some documents in the form of partial pages or portions thereof. For example, document (49) includes 786 pages of the User's Guide while document (50) contains certain pages of the same User's Guide. The certain pages or portions of the documents have been noted to assist the Examiner's review of documents, but such submission/notation is not intended to constitute a representation that other pages or portions of the documents are less relevant than the indicated pages or portions. Therefore, the Examiner is referred to the certain pages or portions, and is requested to review each document in its entirety when evaluating the claimed invention based upon the patent statutes.

Moreover, the following documents have been cited by the Examiner in Office Actions mailed January 10, 2005 in Reexamination No. 90/006,633 (all three documents) and January 27, 2005 in Reexamination No. 90/006,634 (Dickman et al.).

U.S. Patent No. 5,768,578 to Kirk et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,517,605 to Wolf

U.S. Patent No. 5,877,765 to Dickman et al.

Still further, during a review of information related to the reexamination proceedings and the parent of this continuation application, Applicants noted certain activities in connection with development of a structured document browser more than one year prior to the effective filing date of present application. Applicants included these activities in the Information Disclosure Statement and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements filed January 23, 2004 and August 13, 2004 in the Reexaminations, and are bringing these activities to the attention of the Examiner in this continuation application for the Examiner's evaluation with the other information presented herein. Thus, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner activities

that occurred beginning prior to May 17, 1995, i.e., more than one year prior to the May 17, 1996 effective filing date of the present application.

Applicants were involved in development activities directed to resolving issues associated with viewing electronic documents and had begun to focus on a structured document browser that included, amongst other features, a user interface that remains uniform and familiar as the user browses documents according to their structure instead of their contents.

Applicants, through Ameritech Corporation (“Ameritech”), the original assignee of the application that matured into the patent which is the subject of the instant reexamination, and through chain of title is presently owned by SBC Properties, L.P. (now known as SBC Knowledge Ventures, L.P.), sent a Request for Information (“RFI”) to unrelated independent contractors to determine the feasibility of outsourcing some of the development of a structured document browser known as “Reference, Delivery, and Automation” (“RDA”) (hereinafter referred to as “structured document browser”). A copy of the RFI has been submitted in the January 23, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in the Reexaminations as Exhibit A (with dates redacted).

During 1994, Applicants received responses to the RFI including responses from a first independent contractor, i.e., Electronic Book Technologies, Inc. (EBT). Applicants note that EBT had software at the time of the RFI, which software included *DynaText™* Browser, a search and retrieval software package, *DynaBase™*, their native SGML repository for document management, and *DynaTag™*, for document conversion.

Thereafter, Applicants met with a second independent contractor, i.e., Logical Design Solutions, Inc. (LDS), regarding possible assistance with development of Applicants’ structured document browser.

During the end of 1994, Ameritech Services, Inc. (of which Ameritech is an affiliate) entered into a paid software license agreement with EBT with respect to EBT's commercial software and to possibly provide consulting services with respect to Applicants' structured document browser, a copy of which has been submitted in the January 23, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in the Reexaminations as Exhibit B (with dates redacted and Attachments A and B relating to EBT price lists and future agreements removed).

Moreover, at about the same time, Ameritech Services, Inc. entered into a paid consulting agreement with LDS contemplating that LDS would assist in development of a custom browser that complied with Ameritech's specifications and made use of some existing EBT software for use in incremental trials in the development of Applicants' system.

During the beginning of 1995, structured document browser software, which included a plurality of icons automatically configured to correspond to respective sections of predefined document structure regardless of what section of the document was displayed, was received from LDS for evaluation and testing. This software was subjected to initial testing by the inventors, and based upon satisfaction with the ability of the software to perform its intended function, the structured document browser was subjected to expanded testing.

The first of the expanded testing began at this time, and included an internal trial at Ameritech's Pewaukee Service Center located in Pewaukee, Wisconsin using approximately ten desktops to evaluate usability issues and technical issues. This trial included a small number of machines, i.e., approximately ten workstations, and did not involve an entire call center. Moreover, the trial was a small scale test in that only a small number of books were downloaded to the workstations out of a library of hundreds of books. Ameritech service representatives used the structured document browser software as well as paper documents that were ordinarily

utilized by service representatives to respond to telephone calls received from the public. The purpose of the trial was to evaluate the structured document system's ability relating to technical and usability issues to respond to questions from the public. In this regard, questions were normally responded to at the service center by a service representative using paper documents to ascertain the appropriate response. The trial was structured to ascertain the feasibility of using a structured document browser instead of paper in responding to questions from the public. In other words, the trial included a small scale use of the structured document browser software to test for technical and usability issues. Exhibit C was submitted in the January 23, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in the Reexaminations, which is entitled "Introduction to RDA" which illustrates the functionality of the structured document browser believed to be the subject of the trial.

These trials included the evaluation of the impact on service representatives. For example, it would be important in the actual deployment of the structured document browser to understand the impact of the structured document browser on the service representatives. Such impact included whether the system was of sufficient speed to permit efficient access of data, whether the content was accessible to the service representatives in an efficient manner, whether the browser environment was aesthetically pleasing to the service representatives, and to determine desired system modifications.

During the trials, various issues relating to improvement of the structured document browser became apparent to the inventors. For example, colors included in the browser were a concern, and service representatives were changing colors to colors that did not permit easy reading of the information which resulted in service representatives missing information.

Technical issues also surfaced. For example, issues relating to the ability of the structured document browser to deliver information at a sufficient speed were evaluated by the inventors through trials for both direct loading on a desktop and access through a LAN drive. Modifications to the structured document browser resulting from such testing included, for example, modification of the initializing file to speed the process of initialization. For example, different components were relocated to a desktop or LAN drive to improve performance.

Moreover, Applicants submitted in the Reexaminations an Ameritech Interoffice Memorandum entitled, "RDA User Test Plan", which was attached as Exhibit D (with dates redacted) in the January 23, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in the Reexaminations. This document comprises a draft of user evaluation criteria for the structured document browser around the time of the Pewaukee trial.

Applicants also submitted in the Reexaminations a document entitled "RDA Implementation and Support Strategy Draft 05/22/95", which was attached as Exhibit E (with dates redacted except for date in title) in the January 23, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in the Reexaminations. This document, which is internal to Ameritech, discusses the desired deployment of the RDA system as a multi-business-unit initiative for the purpose of improving the availability of corporate information to all employees with the ultimate elimination of costs associated with paper reproduction and distribution. The goal also included more timely availability, and better control of what was being distributed.

As noted in the RDA Implementation and Support Strategy section of this document, "[t]he process of getting from where we are today to the ultimate goal is large and involved." For example, under the headings "Browser initialization" and "Collection/Book opening" problems noted during the trials are discussed, and solutions and further evaluations, such as

"requested 6 Pewaukee RDA users to continuously open and close books" is indicated.

Moreover, the system remained on the desktops at Pewaukee Service Center, and service representatives of Ameritech were permitted to continue to use the desktops including the structured browser system.

Applicants also enclosed in the January 23, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in the Reexaminations Exhibit F, which is a document dated January 24, 1995 discussing the above-noted Pewaukee trial and other testing and trials. In this regard, further trials were conducted at other locations including locations at Brecksville, Ohio and Saginaw, Michigan following the expanded test at Ameritech's Pewaukee Service Center located in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Applicants note that there may have been a first trial at Brecksville prior to one year before the May 17, 1996 effective filing date of the application. However, whether or not this trial was prior to this date, Applicants note that the trial was not successful and, in fact, may be classified as a "disaster". In particular, during a first trial at Brecksville, books were loaded on desktops which resulted in such a slow working of the structured document browser system as to lead to a halting of the test. This led to subsequent testing utilizing an alternative of placing books on local file servers in call centers. Subsequently, the structured document browser system was internally adopted in a first business unit.

Applicants also note that it appears that approximately during March or April of 1995, one of the inventors, i.e., Robert Schumacher, forwarded an abstract relating to human factors involved of designing an on-line reference system to persons outside Ameritech associated with a conference to be held in October 1995. To complete the record, a copy of the paper which published in October 1995, entitled "The Human Factors Involved In Designing An On-Line Reference System", Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 39<sup>th</sup> Annual

Meeting 1995, pages 218-222, October, 1995, has been submitted in the August 13, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement in the Reexaminations and listed on attached Form PTO-1449.

Moreover, in an abundance of caution especially in view of the filing of the submission of various facts relating to the invention in the disclosure statements as well as to ensure a complete record, Applicants note that the inventor has indicated in relation to the Proceedings that "clearly to present the trial learnings at a professional conference meant the trial was over by Spring of '95." The trial learnings being referenced is not the further trial and testing mentioned above, but the initial testing. In this regard, as noted above, software was subjected to initial testing by the inventors, and based upon satisfaction with the ability of the software to perform its intended function, the structured document browser was subjected to expanded testing.

Still further, in order that the record is complete, Applicants note that the application was initially targeted to be filed at the end of January 1996 based at least in part on facts as presented herein at least relating to the beginning of 1995 activities.

Applicants have presented information herein for consideration by the Examiner when reviewing the application in connection with the patent statutes including 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. Moreover, Applicants have sought to present representative information in the present disclosure statement relating to activities before the critical date. In this regard, Applicants note there are numerous documents, including a number of documents that are marked confidential, such as documents relating to the above-noted activities for which the independent contractors were paid by Applicants. If the Examiner deems that any further information would be of assistance in evaluating any of the information provided herein in relation to determining patentability of Applicants' invention under any aspect of the patent statutes, including those that pertain to

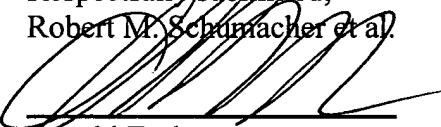
activities before or after the critical date, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above information. The Examiner is therefore requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form PTO-1449 and to forward a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication in the present proceeding to confirm the Examiner's consideration of both the present disclosure statement and the information contained herein.

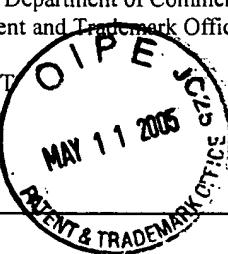
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Should the Examiner have any questions and/or desire any additional information, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert M. Schumacher et al.

  
Arnold Turk  
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office							Atty. Docket No. P25497		Serial No. 10/773,370			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)									Applicant Robert M. SCHUMACHER et al.					
									Filing Date February 6, 2004		Group 2179			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>														
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME			CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4	6	1	6	3	3	6	10/07/86	ROBERTSON et al.					
	4	7	5	2	9	0	8	06/21/88	BOUILLOT					
	4	8	2	9	4	5	3	05/09/89	KATSUTA et al.					
	5	0	2	1	9	8	9	06/04/91	FUJISAWA et al.					
	5	1	2	9	0	8	2	07/07/92	TRIFING et al.					
	5	1	4	0	5	2	1	08/18/82	KOZOL et al.					
	5	1	4	2	6	7	8	08/25/92	MacPHAIL					
	5	1	4	6	5	5	2	09/08/92	CASSORLA et al.					
	5	2	0	4	9	4	7	04/20/93	BERNSTEIN et al.					
	5	2	7	8	9	8	0	01/11/94	PEDERSEN et al.					
	5	2	9	7	2	4	9	03/22/94	BERNSTEIN et al.					
	5	3	2	9	1	1	1	07/12/94	SONODA et al.					
	5	3	3	1	5	4	7	07/19/94	LASZLO					
	5	3	3	9	0	9	1	08/16/94	YAMAZAKI et al.					
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	5	7	8	1	7	8	5	07/14/98	ROWE et al.				
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